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SCRIPTURE
PORTIONS



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SCRIPTURE PORTIONS,

WITH

PRAYERS

FOR INVALIDS.

BY MRS. J. BOWEN THOMPSON,

NEE

ELIZABETH MARIA LLOYD.

Second Edition, enlarged.

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THE design of the following pages is to provide suitable Scripture portions for the sick and infirm, and to aid district visitors, anxious to find select texts to read to the sick and dying.

May every one who reads this little book find a blessing in it, and be led diligently to search the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make him wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

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MY DEAR FRIEND,

“God is love,”¹ and therefore he “speaketh once, yea twice; yet man perceiveth it not. He keepeth his soul back from the pit, and chastens him with pain upon his bed.”² God has often spoken to you by the voice of conscience and of Providence, and he now speaks to you again by sickness and sorrow. His chastisements are sent for your good, but they will profit you nothing, unless you take heed to the teaching of his Word and Holy Spirit. Jesus says, “Search the Scriptures,”³ but now that you are weak and in pain, you will perhaps say, “How can I, unless

¹ John iv. 8. ² Job xxxiii. 14, 18, 19. ³ John v. 39.

some man should guide me?"¹ Well, dear Friend, this little book is intended to help you in searching out what the Lord says to you in his holy Word, and what He expects you to say to him. Pray, therefore, that God the Holy Spirit may open your heart, and so speak to you in that Word, that you may understand and obey God's message to your soul.

God speaks in his Word to two classes of persons : to those who are dead in trespasses and sins,² and to those who by grace "have been created in Jesus Christ unto good works."³ To these God has separate messages ; to the first, invitations, threatenings, and judgments ; to the second, exhortations, promises, and assurances of love.

By nature, we are *all* the "children of wrath,"⁴ and if you have not been redeemed from that state by the blood of Christ,

¹ Acts viii. 31. ² Eph. ii. 1. ³ Eph. ii. 10.

⁴ Eph. ii. 3.

you are yet under condemnation, you have *no claim* to the precious promises which God makes in his Word, to *his children*, nor can you have any share in that glory which remaineth for *the people of God*. There is only one way by which you can be brought from a state of nature into a state of grace, and that is in Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Ghost. Jesus says, “I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me.”¹ “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned.”²

Do you answer, I believe that Christ Jesus came into the world “to save sinners;” I am sure He will have mercy upon me, for I have always done to the best of my power. I know I am a poor sinner, but I am not worse than my neighbours. I have been honest and sober. I have

¹ John xiv. 6.

² Mark xvi. 16.

gone to church whenever I could; and I have never wilfully done harm to any one. I know I ought to have done better, but it has not been for the want of will. God is very merciful, and I know he will be good to me at the last. I am not afraid to die if he sees fit: my conscience does not condemn me.

Reader, is this *your* plea? is this your hope of acceptance with God? Then hear what the Lord says to such as presume to stand before him on the ground of their own works and deservings. "Cursed is every one that *continueth* not in *all* things which are written in the Book of the law to do them."¹ Now say, have you done *all* things written in the Book of the law, and have you always *continued* to do so? To this, in honest truth, you must answer, No. Now God, who cannot lie, declares of such that they are "CURSED." As long as you expect to be

¹ Gal. iii. 10.

saved by your works, you are under the law and under its curse. “The soul that sinneth, it shall die.”¹ You have broken God’s holy will and commandments; you are under condemnation, and have *no claim* to everlasting life. You are not clean in God’s sight, neither are you guiltless in God’s judgment, whatever you may be in your own. Be not deceived, you will be lost and undone for ever unless you are pardoned and justified by the blood of Christ, through the renewing of the Holy Ghost. “Your iniquities have separated between you and your God,”² but in Christ Jesus is your help. He is our peace,³ and our substitute, in bearing our punishment, and in working out our righteousness. “In this was manifested the love of God towards us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. Herein is love, not that we loved

¹ Ez. xviii. 4.

² Is. lix. 2.

³ Eph. ii. 14.

God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins :”¹ —that is the cause of reconciliation and forgiveness. “The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”² “There is now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus ; who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”³ “Their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.”⁴

Reader, here is just what you want : an advocate for you with the Father, a Saviour from sin and condemnation, and a procuring cause of everlasting life. One who is both able and willing to obtain for you pardon, peace, and joy eternal. “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.”⁵ The command is simple, and may be understood by a child ; while the promise is positive and unconditional : “Thou shalt

¹ 1 John iv. 9—10. ² 1 John i. 7. ³ Rom. viii. 1.
⁴ Heb. viii. 12. ⁵ Acts xvi. 31.

be saved." Here is hope, comfort, and peace, for the poorest and weakest, yea, for the greatest sinner who repents and believes in Jesus Christ as his Saviour. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."¹ "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin."² Jesus was made the Son of man, that we might be made the sons of God ; He bore our punishment, that we might share His glory ; He died and rose again for us, that we might live in Him, and with Him, for evermore. "To as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."³

Reader, if you have lived in ignorance of Jesus as *your* Saviour up to this hour, live in that awful state no longer. Go to Him in the strength of his own blessed

¹ John iii. 16. ² 1 John i. 7. ³ John i. 12.

promise, “Him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out,”¹ and take courage from his gracious declaration, “If ye, then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?”² “Ask, and it shall be given you.”³

You are now in the position of the debtor in the parable, who, when his Lord came to reckon with him, had nothing wherewith to pay; and what was the consequence? His Lord commanded him to be put into prison until he could pay the uttermost farthing. The debtor, finding that he was undone, did not wait till he was cast into prison, but instantly threw himself upon the mercy of his master, who loosed him and forgave him the debt.⁴ Dear Reader, go thou and do likewise. Do not delay till

¹ John vi. 37. ² Luke xi. 13. ³ Matt. vii. 7.

⁴ Matt. xviii. 24—27.

to-morrow, for before it dawns, God may say: "My spirit shall not always strive with man;"¹ or he may send the sudden summons, "This night thy soul shall be required of thee."² Oh! go to the Lord Jesus *just as you are*, and throw yourself upon His mercy. He is "come to seek and to save that which was lost,"³ and the sheep which are not yet of his fold, them will He also bring, that they may hear his voice, and be one fold under one shepherd. He will give to them eternal life, and no man shall pluck them out of his Father's hand.

Where Christ gives pardon of sin, He also bestows His Holy Spirit to enable us to overcome it and forsake it. Christ has redeemed us from all iniquity: that is, from the punishment, the power, and the practice of all iniquity. Therefore, if any man say he is in Christ Jesus, and continues to live in sin and

¹ Gen. vi. 3.

² Luke xii. 20.

³ Luke xviii. 10.

worldliness, that man deceiveth himself. My dear Reader, if your faith does not produce conformity to Christ, be assured it is not a sound faith: it is the faith merely of the understanding, and not of the heart. “Did the Son of God,” says an eminent Divine, “make his soul an offering for sin, that you might indulge in sin? Did he die for the ungodly, that you might continue ungodly? Did he glorify the divine perfections, that you might dishonour them in your lives?” Assuredly not. Faith without holiness, is the faith of devils, who also “believe and tremble.”¹ You know very well, that talking about food or medicine will not satisfy your hunger, or cure your sickness, unless you take them: just in the same way your talking about Christ as able to save and to nourish your soul, will not benefit you, unless you so receive these blessed truths, that carnal affections die

¹ James ii. 19.

in you, and all things belonging to the Spirit live and grow in you. Christ is as necessary for the nourishment of the believer's soul, as the breath he draws or the food he eats is for the support of his body. To those who thus live upon him by faith, the Lord Jesus says, " Whoso eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life ; and I will raise him up at the last day." ¹

Again : your soul hath as much need to be clothed with the righteousness of Christ to enable you to stand before God, as your body has of suitable raiment to stand before a prince. Therefore, as a poor beggar going into the presence of his king would thankfully accept of a clean dress in place of his dirty rags ; so a poor sinner, who knows that his own righteousness is but as filthy rags in God's sight (Is. lxiv. 6), will joyfully receive the garment of Christ's righteous-

¹ John vi. 54.

ness to cover his sins and short-comings when he shall be summoned into the presence of his God. Remember the man at the marriage feast. (Matt. xxii. 11, 13.) This man was probably blind to his unfit state to appear at the feast, or thought that among so many he should escape notice. But this was impossible ; and the fate that awaited him will be that of every one who flatters himself that he is fit to go to heaven, but has neither the blood nor the righteousness of Christ for his portion. God's word declares, "If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."¹

Dear Reader, the Lord has a purpose in every act of his providence ; no dispensation leaves us as it found us : your present sickness will either bring you nearer to God, or it will alienate you still further from him. May the Lord give you grace to take this visitation to your

¹ Rom. viii. 9.

profit, so that whether you leave your sick bed to return to the pursuits of life or go down to the chambers of death, it may be as a humble, devoted, rejoicing believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.

And now let me turn to the other, but alas ! smaller class, to whom God speaks in his Word : his pardoned and believing people. Beloved friends, you who have already come to Christ as the fountain of light and life, count it all joy that the Lord is chastening you for your profit. You must be made partakers of his holiness, and be made more and more conformable to the image of his blessed Son. As a father affectionately takes his child aside to tell him of his faults, to point out to him his dangers, and to admonish him to repentance, so does your heavenly Father now take you aside to speak to you alone and in love. He cannot bear to see spots and blemishes resting upon his child, and therefore sends sickness or

sorrow as a correction and remedy for the secret sins which his all-searching eye has discerned within. (See Job xxxiii., Rev. ii., iii.) Doubting, murmuring, ingratitude, disloyalty, disobedience, lukewarmness, selfishness, pride, and forgetfulness of God, all are visited with punishment. (Lev. xxvi.; John v. 14; Col. iii. 5, 6; 1 Cor. xi. 30, 31.)

A chastening time is often a precious seed time of patience, submission, and self-denial; and a time of sickness endears to us the sympathy of Jesus, who “Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.” (Matt. viii. 17.) We learn to know him as the great healer of his people (Is. ix. 6; comp. with Is. xxxv. 1—6; Luke vii. 20, &c.; Matt. iv. 23; viii, 17; also Ex. xv. 23—26), and understand more of his wondrous love to man.

Again; it is the believer’s privilege to be made like his blessed Master; to

follow his example in all things, and like him to learn obedience by the things which he suffers. If his path be one of trial and sickness, he knows that this furnishes a claim to great and precious promises, adapted to his peculiar position — promises which, in their fulfilment, yield tenfold more consolation than a state exempt from trial. If “the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.”¹

In conclusion, let me earnestly and affectionately invite each class of my Readers to search the Scriptures; to read them with prayer for the enlightening teaching of God’s Holy Spirit, and with a humble and docile mind. To the believer, the Bible is his greatest earthly treasure, and his heart burns within him as Jesus thus talks with him by the way.² To him it is a foretaste of that better communion, when he shall see God face

¹ 2 Cor. i. 5.

² See Luke xxiv. 32.

to face, and the Lord shall speak unto him as a man speaketh unto his friend.¹ “Blessed is the man” whose “delight is in the law of the Lord,” and who meditates thereon day and night.²

Christ has left nothing undone for the benefit and comfort of his people; and in testimony of his love, and as an especial means of grace, he instituted the Lord’s Supper just before he suffered. The humble, penitent sinner, who looks to Christ’s blood for pardon, is invited to draw nigh, and to take these emblems of his Saviour’s body and blood, as a pledge of his love, and as a means of strengthening and refreshing his soul. To the sick, especially, these visible emblems of the Sacrifice of Christ’s death are very helpful in aiding a weak and distressed mind in its exercise of faith, and hope, and love. In every stage of his pilgrimage the Lord’s Supper is, to the pious be-

¹ Ex. xxxiii. 11. ² See Ps. i. 1, 2.

liever, a season of spiritual comfort and peace. It is to him a renewed pledge of Christ's love in dying for him,¹ of his oneness with Christ,² of his fellowship with all the members of Christ's Mystical Body,³ and of his engagement to live with them in unity and love. Lastly, while he thus thankfully commemorates the death of Christ, it raises his thoughts to the blessed time of his Saviour's Second and Glorious Coming,* "when he shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other,"⁴ and they shall be "called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb."⁵

That this, dear Reader, may be your blessed experience and mine, is the fervent prayer of

Your sincere Friend,
E. M. L.

* "As often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death *till he come.*"—1 Cor. xi. 26.

¹ John xv. 13. ² John vi. 56. ³ 1 Cor. xii. 12.

⁴ Matt. xxiv. 31. ⁵ Rev. xix. 7—9.

GOD'S PURPOSE IN SENDING SICKNESS.

Take away the dross from the silver,
and there shall come forth a vessel for
the finer. Prov. xxv. 4.

As many as I love, I rebuke and
chasten. Rev. iii. 19.

Whom the Lord loveth he chasten-
eth, and scourgeth every son whom he
receiveth. Heb. xii. 6.

That they may observe his statutes,
and keep his laws. Ps. cv. 45.

That we might be partakers of his
holiness. Heb. xii. 10.

As a man chasteneth his son, so the
Lord thy God chasteneth thee. Deut.
viii. 5.

No chastening for the present
seemeth to be joyous, but grievous;
nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the
peaceable fruit of righteousness unto
them which are exercised thereby.
Heb. xii. 11.

If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments; If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. Ps. lxxxix. 30—32.

For the iniquity of his covetousness was I wroth, and smote him: I hid me, and was wroth, and he went on fowardly in the way of his heart. Isaiah lvii. 17.

Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins? Lam. iii. 39.

Thy way and thy doings have procured these things unto thee. Jer. iv. 18.

Because thy sins were increased, I have done these things unto thee. Jer. xxx. 15.

He doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men. Lam. iii. 33.

A bruised reed shall he not break,
and the smoking flax shall he not
quench. Is. lxi. 3.

Behold, happy is the man whom God
correcteth: therefore despise not thou the
chastening of the Almighty. Job. v. 17.

He hath sent me to heal the broken-
hearted, to preach deliverance to the
captive, and recovering of sight to the
blind, to set at liberty them that are
bruised. Luke iv. 18.

Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be
healed. Jer. xvii. 14.

Divine Answer.—I am the Lord
that healeth thee. Ex. xv. 26. They
that be whole, need not a physician, but
they that are sick. Matt. ix. 12. He
healed all that were sick. Himself took
our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.
Matt. viii. 16, 17. See also Job xxxiii.
19—26; Ps. cvii. 17—21; Is. xxxviii.;
John xv. 2; 1 Pet. i. 6, 7; iv. 12, 13.

PRAYER.

O merciful God, who in unerring wisdom and love, sendest health and sickness, life and death, look down in pity upon me, whom thou hast laid upon a bed of suffering. Lord, I am afflicted, and sore smitten, and can find no rest or comfort. I have lived in ignorance and in sin, and am afraid to die. “Teach me and I will hold my tongue, and cause me to understand wherein I have erred.” Job vi. 24.

Take me not away in the midst of my days, but spare me a little, that I may recover my strength before I go hence, and be no more seen.

I confess with shame, that when I have seen all things go well with me, I have forgotten Thee, my God, and have lived as if this world had been my home. Teach me, good Lord, to profit by thy

loving correction, and to humble myself under thy mighty hand. Forgive my murmuring and impatience, and help me to submit with cheerfulness to thy most just punishment for my sins.

Bless this sickness to the health of my soul, and give me pardon and peace. If it be thy good pleasure, restore to me health and ease, but if not, enable me to say, "Thy will be done." Teach me to pray, and give me the help and comfort of thy Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ thy Son. Amen.

When this poor tenement of clay
Becomes a lifeless clod,
Shall I, exulting, soar away
To an unseen abode?

O let me not with terror shrink
From questions such as these ;
My God has sent,—to bid me think,—
His messenger, Disease.

I bless the God, who from above,
This needful call has sent ;
Who weans me from terrestrial love,
By gentle chastisement.

THE WORD OF THE LORD AWAKENING THE
SICK MAN TO A CONCERN FOR HIS SOUL.

In the day of adversity consider. Eccles.
vii. 14.

Commune with your own heart. Ps.
iv. 4.

I the Lord search the heart, I try the
reins. Jer. xvii. 10.

God requireth that which is past.
Eccles. iii. 15.

The wages of sin is death. Rom.
vi. 23.

The soul that sinneth, it shall die.
Ezek. xviii. 4.

The sting of death is sin. 1 Cor. xv.
56.

Sin is the transgression of the law.
1 John iii. 4.

The thought of foolishness is sin.
Prov. xxiv. 9.

It is appointed unto men once to die,

but after this the judgment. Heb. ix. 27.

We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. 2 Cor. v. 10.

God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. Gal. vi. 7.

Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. Matt. xii. 36.

Prepare to meet thy God. Amos iv. 12.

Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. Is. lix. 2.

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards,

nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 1 Cor. vi. 9, 10.

There is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest. Eccles. ix. 10.

If the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? 1 Peter iv. 18.

Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. Is. lv. 6, 7.

It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. Lam. iii. 22, 23.

O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself, but in me is thine help. Hos. xiii. 9.

O that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end. Deut. xxxii. 29.

Ps. ciii. 10; Hosea xiv. 12; Amos v. 6; Matt. v. 22; Mark vii. 21—23; Luke xiii. 11—13; James ii. 10; Rev. xxi. 27.

PRAYER.

O thou great and awful God, fearful art thou in thine anger, and terrible in thy judgment. Stay now thy wrath, I beseech Thee, and let go thy hot displeasure. Awaken me to a true sense of my state, for I am careless and ignorant, but enter not into judgment with thy servant, O Lord, for in thy sight shall no man living be justified.

Save me from the fears of death that are fallen upon me, and from the terrors of hell that overwhelm me. Speak not in wrath but in mercy, lest I be confounded and perish.

O take me not away in thy displeasure, but spare me awhile, that I may apply my heart unto wisdom. Thou wouldest not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should be converted and live; therefore, O Lord, have mercy upon me.

Hell and destruction are before me, and there is no man, O Lord, that can deliver me out of thy hand; O save me, or I perish.

Keep my soul from going down to the pit, and in thine unspeakable mercy, rid me and deliver me from the hand of the enemy. O my God, of whom can I seek for succour, but of Thee, who for my sins art justly displeased?

Lord, my soul is full of trouble, hear me and answer me speedily, for thou art my God. O Lord, be favourable unto me, and have mercy upon me, for the sake of thy dear Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

O God ! what am I in thy sight ?
 Thou, only thou, canst read aright
 The characters within ;
 No fellow-mortal has their clue—
 No human scrutiny can view
 The ravages of sin.

Till thy light shone, I never knew
 How fearful was my heart to view,
 Disordered, false, impure ;
 I fondly fancied it was good,
 Nor that high standard understood
 Whose test it must endure.

Searcher of hearts ! before thine eye,
 Though all my sins uncovered lie—
 Sins more than I can count—
 Yet one pure drop of precious blood,
 Shed by the atoning Lamb of God,
 Cancels their whole amount.

On me that blood be sprinkled now,
 Wash me and make me white as snow,
 Thou Lamb for sinners slain :
 That blood which our lost world redeemed,
 A ransom adequate esteemed,
 Can never plead in vain.

THE SICK MAN CONFESSING HIS SINS, AND
ANXIOUSLY SEEKING MERCY.

God commandeth all men everywhere to repent. Acts xvii. 30.

Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out. Acts iii. 17.

God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you in turning away every one of you from his iniquities. Acts iii. 26.

Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour for to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. Acts v. 31.

He that covereth his sins shall not prosper : but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy. Prov. xxviii. 13.

Enter not into judgment with thy servant; for in thy sight shall no man living be justified. Ps. cxliii. 2.

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? Jer. xvii. 9.

If thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? Ps. cxxx. 3.

Mine iniquities have taken hold upon me, so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of mine head: therefore my heart faileth me. Ps. xl. 12.

Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear unto my cry; hold not thy peace at my tears. Ps. xxxix. 12.

Hide not thy face from thy servant; for I am in trouble: hear me speedily. Draw nigh unto my soul, and redeem it. Ps. lxix. 17, 18.

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving-kindness: according

unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.
Ps. li. 1—8.

My heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. Ps. lxi. 2.

But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared. Ps. cxxx. 4.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John i. 9.

Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief. Mark ix. 24.

I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. Luke xv. 18, 19.

Ezra ix. 6; Job xxxiii. 14—30; Ps. xxv. 7, 11, 16, 18; xxxii.; xxxviii. 15; xl. 17.; li.; cxix. 75—77; cxxxix. 23, 24; Is. xxxiii. 17; Jer. xvii. 13; Dan. ix. 10; Hosea vi. 1; Micah vii. 9, 18, 19.

What must I do to be saved? Divine Answer—Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved. Acts xvi. 30, 31.

PRAYER.

Almighty God, and merciful Father, thou hast compassion upon all men; and while thou hatest sin, art willing to receive the returning sinner. I thank Thee, that by the power of thy Holy Spirit, and the light of thy Word, thou hast shown me not only the corruption of my heart, and my sinfulness in thy sight, but thy wondrous love to me a sinner. O Lord, I am wearied and grieved with the burden

of my sins ; they are a sore burden, too heavy for me to bear. I bewail and lament my vile and corrupt nature, and my deep iniquity before Thee, who hast daily surrounded me with mercies and loving-kindness. My soul is bowed down to the earth, and my sins have taken such hold upon me, that I am not able to look up. O Lord, what shall I say ? hear me, for thy mercy is great ; and according to the multitude of thy tender mercies, look upon me for thy dear Son's sake. Merciful Father, I humbly confess before Thee, with true contrition of heart, my numerous sins of thought, word, and deed, [*here make mention of your besetting sins.*] Forgive, I beseech Thee, the iniquity of my known and my unknown sins, and blot out all my transgressions from the book of thy remembrance. Make me to feel my need of the Saviour's blood to purge away the guilt of my sins, and of my need of thy Holy Spirit to

enable me to forsake them for the time to come. Cleanse the thoughts of my heart, O Lord, by the mighty working of thy good Spirit, and give me strength to lead a new life, and to walk closely in the way of thy commandments.

Hear me, O Lord, and accept my prayer, for the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

Perchance my hours are numbered now,
And life's remaining sands are few;
Still o'er the past my tears must flow:
Sad the review.

Well may I fear that now, in wrath,
Thou wilt cut short life's slender thread,
And close for me that narrow path
I would not tread.

But mercy, mercy, I implore,
Through Christ's atoning sacrifice,
To Him, e'er life's short day be o'er,
I lift my eyes.

For poor, lost sinners He was slain;
For them He died, for them He lives;
Hope kindles in my heart again:
That hope He gives.

**FREE OFFER OF PARDON THROUGH THE MERITS
AND DEATH OF CHRIST.**

To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses though we have rebelled against him. Dan. ix. 9.

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. Is. i. 18.

Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth. Is. xlvi. 22.

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. Acts xvi. 31.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John iii. 16.

The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. 1 John i. 7.

It is the Blood that maketh an atone-

ment for the soul. Lev. xvii. 11. Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things such as silver and gold but with the precious Blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 1 Pet. i. 18, 19.

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners ; of whom I am chief. 1 Tim. i. 15.

The Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. Is. liii. 6 ; see also 4—6.

Thou shalt call his name Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins. Matt. i. 21.

Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father. Gal. i. 4.

Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures. 1 Cor. xv. 3.

He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. Heb. ix. 26.

Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many. Heb. ix. 28.

We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And he is the propitiation for our sins. 1 John ii. 1, 2.

Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. John i. 29.

He that believeth on him is not condemned. John iii. 18.

Jesus saith unto him: I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. John xiv. 6.

Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out. John vi. 37.

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matt. xi. 28.

I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins. Is. xlivi. 25.

God who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us

together with Christ. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. Eph. ii. 4, 5, 8. Ye are complete in him. Col. ii. 10.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. John v. 24.

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Rom. viii. 31, 32. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Heb. iv. 16.

Job xlvi. 5, 6; Jer. xxix. 11—13; xxxiii. 6; Zech. ix. 11, 12; Micah vii.

18, 19; Acts xiii. 38; 2 Cor. v. 21;
Eph. i. 7; Heb. x. 14, 17; 1 Peter ii. 4.

PRAYER.

Almighty God, who, in wonderful love towards mankind, hast given thy Son Jesus Christ to die for our sins, I bless thy Holy Name, that thou hast not left my soul to perish, but hast made known to me the way of salvation. Give me an humble and thankful sense of thy mercy in this renewed offer of pardon, through the precious blood of thy Son, shed on the cross for me. O let me never forget that, without an interest in that sacrifice, my soul must be lost for ever.

But, O Lord, how can a sinner so vile as I am venture to approach Thee! Thine offers of pardon and acceptance have often sounded in my ears—but I

heeded them not;—and now, the great adversary whispers,—it is too late.

Blessed Jesus, never yet didst thou turn a poor sinner away, and now thou wouldst not bid me come, if the door of hope were already shut. Thou seest how weak and helpless I am, now that I am laid on a bed of sickness, oppressed with sin and sorrow. Of myself I cannot come. O send, and take me out of the deep waters. I cast myself upon thy compassionate mercy, in sweet assurance that thou wilt in no wise cast me out. O Lamb of God, I come, just as I am, because thou bidst me come. I plead thy precious blood and merits, and thy gracious offer of pardon and acceptance. O Lord, this is a special call to my soul; and it may be the last. Help me to lay hold on the hope set before me; and to receive Christ into my heart, to-day, while he is willing to receive me. I flee to thee for refuge; take me into thine

ark of mercy, for the enemy presseth sore. Lord, save me, or I perish. Speak peace to my soul, and say, Be of good cheer, thy sins are forgiven thee, go in peace. Grant this, O Lord, for thy mercies' sake, in Christ Jesus. Amen.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 Come unto me and rest;
 Lay down, thou weary one, lay down
 Thy head upon my breast.
 I came to Jesus as I was,
 Weary, and worn, and sad,
 I found in him a resting place,
 And he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 Behold, I freely give
 The living water; thirsty one,
 Stoop down, and drink, and live.
 I came to Jesus, and I drank
 Of that life giving stream,
 My thirst was quench'd, my soul revived,
 And now I live in him.

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts, by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. Rom. v. 5.

Have ye received the Holy Ghost? Acts xix. 2.

Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born *from above*, he cannot see the kingdom of God. John iii. 5.

If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. Rom. viii. 9.

No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. 1 Cor. xii. 3.

The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Cor. ii. 14.

But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit. 1 Cor. ii. 10.

Ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I . . . shall put my Spirit in you. Ezekiel xxxvii. 13, 14.

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes. Ezekiel xxxvi. 26, 27.

It is the Spirit that quickeneth. John vi. 63.

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us, [*within us,*] with groanings which cannot be uttered. Rom. viii. 26.

As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. Rom. viii. 14.

Which are born not of blood, nor of

the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. John i. 13.

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost. Titus iii. 5.

When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth. John xvi. 13.

This is the will of God, even your sanctification. 1 Thess. iv. 3.

Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst let him come unto me and drink. He that believeth on me, as the Scripture saith, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive. John vii. 37—39.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness,

faith, meekness, temperance. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Gal. v. 22, 23, 25.

Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. Gal. v. 16.

In whom also (*i.e.*, Christ) after that ye believed ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance. Eph. i. 13, 14.

Quench not the Spirit. 1 Thess. v. 19.

My Spirit shall not always strive with man. Gen. vi. 3.

Create in me a clean heart, O God ; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence ; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Ps. li. 10, 11.

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope through the power of the Holy Ghost. Hosea xiv. 4—9 ; John iv. 24 ; vi. 63 ; vii. 37—39 ; Acts ii. ; Rom. viii. 5—14 ; xv. 13 ; 1 Cor. vi.

9—11; Eph. ii. 18—22; iii. 16—19;
1 Thess. v. 23, 24; Titus iii. 5; Heb.
x. 16, 17.

PRAYER.

O God, who dost renew and teach
the hearts of thy faithful people, by
sending to them the light of thy Holy
Spirit, look upon me, a weak and
helpless sinner, and mercifully lead me
out of darkness and error into the clear
light and truth of thy Gospel. Take
away my natural hardness and impeni-
tence, my stubbornness and self-righteous-
ness, and subdue every thing that exalts
itself against Thee. Cleanse the thoughts
of my heart by the inspiration of thy
Holy Spirit, that I may perfectly know
and love Thee, and worthily magnify thy
Holy Name. Enlighten my ignorance,
sanctify my affections, and let the fruits

of the Spirit abound in my life and conversation. O may thy Spirit take of the things of Christ and shew them unto me, that I may walk in the light of thy countenance. Impress me with the solemn truth that my body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, and must be kept from all that would defile and dishonour it. Kindle my heart with fervent zeal, that I may serve Thee all the days of my life. Strengthen my weakness, confirm my faith, that the enemy of souls may have no advantage over me. Quicken me and guide me, that I may escape the snares of the Devil, and ever uphold me by thy free Spirit.

Finally, O Lord, I beseech Thee, fill me with the spirit of thy holy fear, that I may abhor and flee all sin, and evermore rejoice in the heavenly comfort of thy good Spirit, who with Thee and thy Son Jesus Christ liveth and reigneth ever one God, world without end. Amen.

II.

O Holy Spirit of Grace, and God of all comfort, whose blessed office it is to enlighten and convert the soul, pour down upon me the grace of prayer and supplication. O help my infirmities, for I know not what to pray for as I ought. Put into my heart all holy desires, and make intercession within me, with groanings which cannot be uttered. Lord, I am vile and helpless; Thou art holy and all-powerful. O bend my will to Thine, and work in me and with me at all times. Spirit of Adoption by whom we are enabled to cry "Abba Father," come and dwell in my heart. Enable me to realise my sonship and my safety in the Beloved. But, Lord, if yet I am unregenerate suffer me not to remain under delusion, but mercifully convert my soul, sanctify my will and affections, and enable me to

walk as becomes the followers of the Lamb all the days of my life. These blessings I humbly ask in the name of my Great Mediator and Advocate, Jesus Christ. Amen.

In the hour of my distress,
When temptations me oppress,
And when I my sins confess,
Sweet Spirit, comfort me.

When I lie upon my bed,
Sick in heart, and sick in head,
And with doubts disquieted,
Sweet Spirit, comfort me.

When the tempter me pursueth
With the sins of all my youth,
And condemns me with untruth,
Sweet Spirit, comfort me.

When the judgment is revealed,
And that opened which was sealed,
When to Thee I have appealed,
Sweet Spirit, comfort me.

ANSWER TO THE ENQUIRY,
HOW CAN I KNOW THAT I LOVE JESUS CHRIST
AND HAVE FAITH IN HIM?

Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin ; for his seed remaineth in him : and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest and the children of the devil ; whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. 1 John iii. 9, 10.

He that loveth not, knoweth not God ; for God is love. 1 John iv. 8.

If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar. 1 John iv. 20.

They that are after the flesh, do mind the things of the flesh ; but they that are after the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. Rom. viii. 5.

If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.
2 Cor. v. 17.

They that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. Gal. v. 24.

The tree is known by his fruit. Matt. xii. 33; See also vii. 16—20.

He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. Matt. x. 37, 38.

So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple. Luke xiv. 33.

The love of Christ constraineth us.
2 Cor. v. 14.

He that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And

hereby we know that he abideth in us,
by the Spirit which he hath given us.
1 John iii. 24.

By this shall all men know that ye
are my disciples, if ye have love one to
another. John xiii. 35.

Whatsoever is born of God overcometh
the world: and this is the victory that
overcometh the world, even our faith.
1 John v. 4.

If ye love me, keep my commandments.
John xiv. 15.

Faith without works is dead. James
ii. 20.

Fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;
Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation;
continuing instant in prayer. Rom. xii.
11, 12.

Hereby we do know that we know
him, if we keep his commandments. He
that saith, I know him, and keepeth not
his commandments, is a liar, and the
truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth

his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked. 1 John ii. 3—6.

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. Col. iii. 1, 2.

Unto you therefore which believe he is precious. 1 Pet. ii. 7.

John iii. 5, 7; Eph. i. 4; ii. 10; Col. iii. 17; 1 Pet. i. 8; ii. 7, 20—24; 1 John iv. 7, 8, 17, 18.

PRAYER.

O Lord Jesu Christ, who didst die upon the cross for our salvation, and rise again for our justification, teach me to prove the reality of my faith, and the sincerity of my love, by bringing forth

those fruits of the Spirit by which we know that we abide in thee, and thou in us.

Grant that by the power of thy grace, I may die to sin daily, and live unto righteousness. Let not the world and its pleasures have dominion over me, or lead my heart astray from thy commandments. O Lord Jesu Christ, thou hast done great things for my soul : I desire to live as becometh a sinner who has been redeemed from sin and from hell ; but my heart is hard, and my faith is weak, and my love is cold. Have compassion upon me, and help me. Send forth, I implore Thee, a larger measure of thy Spirit into my heart, that I may follow thy blessed example in all things, and walk in thy most holy footsteps.

Subdue in me everything that is contrary to thy blessed will and word ; and fulfil my earnest desire to walk closely and humbly with my God. Increase my

faith and love; and mercifully remove every doubt and fear that would rob me of my peace in believing. Strengthen me mightily by thy Spirit in the inner man, that, being united to Thee by a true and living faith, I may overcome the world, and purify myself even as thou art pure. Grant this for thy mercy's sake. Amen.

II.

Most merciful God and Father, who of thy loving kindness has given me to believe that the precious Blood of thy dear Son has atoned for my transgressions: O deliver me now, I beseech thee, from the power and the practice of sin. It is not enough, O Lord, to know that I am forgiven; I pray to be kept from the dominion of sin, and to know that peace which thy children enjoy—who have the blessed assurance that they are for ever safe in the covenant of thy

love. Hear me and answer me, I beseech thee, for Jesu's sake. Amen.

'Tis a point I long to know,
Oft it causes anxious thought,
Do I love the Lord or no ?
Am I his, or am I not ?

If I love, why am I thus ?
Why this dull, this lifeless frame ?
Hardly, sure, can they be worse,
Who have never heard his name.

When I turn my eyes within
All is dark, and vain, and wild ;
Fill'd with unbelief and sin,
Can I deem myself a child ?

[If I pray, or hear, or read,
Sin is mixed with all I do ;
You that love the Lord indeed,
Tell me, is it thus with you ?]

Lord, decide the doubtful case,
Thou, who art thy people's sun,
Shine upon thy work of grace,
If it be indeed begun.

Let me love thee more and more,
If I love at all, I pray ;
If I have not loved at all,
Help me to begin to-day.

THE SICK MAN SEEKING TO WALK IN THE WAY
OF LIFE, AND GOD'S PROMISE IN ANSWER.

Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do,
do it with thy might; for there is no
work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor
wisdom in the grave, whither thou goest.
Eccles. ix. 10.

Work while ye have the light, lest
darkness come upon you: while ye
have light, believe in the light, that ye
may be children of light. John xii. 35,
36.

He that hath my commandments and
keepeth them, he it is that loveth me:
and he that loveth me shall be loved of
my Father, and I will love him, and will
manifest myself to him. John xiv. 20,
21, see also verse 23.

I must work the works of him that
sent me, whilst it is day; the night

cometh, when no man can work. John ix. 4.

My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. John iv. 34.

Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? Luke ii. 49.

Shew me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day. Ps. xxv. 4, 5.

As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God? Ps. xlvi. 1, 2.

O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles. Ps. xliii. 3.

Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him cometh my salvation. My

soul, wait thou only upon God ; for my expectation is from him. Ps. lxii. 1, 5.

O God, thou art my God ; early will I seek thee : my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is : My soul followeth hard after thee : thy right hand upholdeth me. Ps. lxiii. 1, 8.

Blessed art thou, O Lord : teach me thy statutes. Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law. I am a stranger in the earth : hide not thy commandments from me. Ps. cxix. 12, 18, 19.

Good and upright is the Lord : therefore will he teach sinners in the way. The meek will he guide in judgment : and the meek will he teach his way. Ps. xxv. 8, 9.

The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him ; and he will shew them His covenant. Ps. xxv. 14.

The eyes of the Lord are upon the

righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. Ps. xxxiv. 15.

Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord. Ps. xxxi. 24.

I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye. Ps. xxxii. 8.

Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not. Jer. xxxiii. 3.

He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honor him. Ps. xci. 15.

For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee. Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the Lord, and thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. Is. xli. 13, 14; Gen. v. 24.

Be thou faithful unto death, and I

will give thee a crown of life. Rev. ii. 10; Eccles. xi. 7—10, xii. 1—8, 13, 14. Mal. iii. 16, 17.

Ps. cxix. 27, 33, 34, 41, 81, 131; Is. xlvi. 16; Prov. iii. 20—26, xlvi. 4; Matt. xxiv. 42; John xv. 7; Jer. xxix. 12, 13; Dan. x. 12; Rev. xxii. 17; Rev. iii. 8, 10—12.

PRAYER.

O God, who hast chosen thine elect in Christ before the foundation of the world, that they should be holy and without blame before Thee in love, work in me after the counsel of Thy will, and conform me to thy blessed image. Make me to remember that I am not my own; but that I have been bought with the precious blood of Thy dear Son; that I should glorify Thee in my body and my soul, which are thine. Cause me to

remember that strait is the gate and narrow is the way that leadeth unto life, and make it my delight to walk therein.

Help me to take thy word for a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path, that I stumble not.

O merciful God, I thank Thee that thou hast not delivered me up to hardness of heart, but hast given me an anxious desire to love and serve Thee. May every trouble and sickness, sent in mercy to my soul, make me more indifferent to the things of this world, and more anxious concerning the things of the world to come. I feel, indeed, that no affliction for the present is joyous, but rather grievous; nevertheless, I rejoice in the hope that this trial will work in me the peaceable fruits of righteousness, and make me a partaker of thy holiness.

Grant that being made thy child by adoption and grace, I may be daily

renewed by thy Holy Spirit, and walk in newness of life, to the glory of thy Name. It is the desire of my soul to shew my love to Thee, by doing Thee service. I have lost many golden opportunities; and now, behold, I am laid aside by my sickness. But, O most compassionate Father, I heartily thank Thee that Thou dost permit me to shew forth my love, not only by serving Thee in the active walks of life, but also by patiently suffering thy holy will. Let no murmur, impatience, or repining, hinder the blessed purpose of thy fatherly correction; but may every chastisement be as healing waters to my soul, and be received with grateful love, at the hand of my heavenly Physician.

As creature comforts are withdrawn, give me to feel more and more my oneness with Thee; and thus, resting in Thy love, may the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep my

heart and mind stayed on Thee. O Lord, hear and answer my prayer, for the sake of thy dear Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

O for a closer walk with God,
A calm and heavenly frame,
A light to shine upon the road,
That leads me to the Lamb !

Return, O holy Dove, return,
Sweet messenger of rest,
I hate the sins that made Thee mourn,
And drove Thee from my breast.

The dearest idol I have known,
Whate'er that idol be,
Help me to tear it from thy throne,
And worship only Thee !

So shall my walk be close with God,
Calm and serene my frame,
So purer light shall mark the road,
That leads me to the Lamb.

SCRIPTURE GROUNDS OF PEACE AND JOY
ARISING FROM THE KNOWLEDGE
OF GOD AS MY SAVIOUR.

There is therefore, now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Rom. viii. 1.

Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many ; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time, without sin unto salvation. Heb. ix. 28.

For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. Heb. x. 14.

God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them ; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin ; that we might be made

the righteousness of God in him. 2 Cor. v. 19, 21.

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Rom. v. 1.

And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever. Isa. xxxii. 17.

But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace. Eph. ii. 13, 14. See also 16, 19, 20.

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace . . . In whom also we have obtained an inheritance. Eph. i. 7, 11.

Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people zealous of good works. Titus ii. 14.

As many as received him, to them

gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. John i. 12.

Our conversation is in heaven. Phil. iii. 20.

Ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. Rom. viii. 15—17.

But ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. 1 Cor. vi. 11.

Jesus said, My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any

man pluck them out of my hand. John x. 27, 28.

Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory. 1 Peter i. 8.

Because I live, ye shall live also. John xiv. 19.

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Isaiah xxvi. 3.

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Phil. iv. 7.

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. John xiv. 27.

Your joy no man taketh from you. John xvi. 22.

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help

thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. Is. xli. 10.

What shall we say, then, to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Rom. viii. 31, 32.

Unto you which believe He is precious.
1 Pet. ii. 7.

Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors, through him that loved us. Rom. viii. 33, 35, 37. (Study the whole chapter.)

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. Heb. xiii. 8; Is. li. 12; John xvi. 24; Rom. v. 2; 1 Cor. i.

30; 2 Cor. i, 3—5; Heb. vi. 18, 19.
1 John iii.

PRAYER.

O Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who in tender love hast given me to believe that thy blessed Son Christ Jesus is made unto us wisdom and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption; perfect, I beseech Thee, the work which thou hast begun in my soul. Bestow upon me such a measure of thy grace, that I may so perfectly, and without all doubt, believe in thy Son Jesus Christ, that neither the sense of my unworthiness, nor the malice of Satan, may ever shake my confidence in thy mercy, or cause me to question the eternity of thy love.

In all times of temptation and trouble, help me, O Lord, to put my whole trust and confidence in Thee, and to take comfort from thy word, that thou dost chasten

me in wisdom and in love. I praise and magnify Thee, my God and my king, that thou hast given unto me, thine unworthy servant, that peace which passeth all understanding, and that joy which the world can neither give nor take away.

I praise Thee for this season of sickness and affliction, and for every other token of thy fatherly care and correction. I praise Thee for the striyings of thy Spirit, which convinced me of sin, led me to my Saviour, and wrought in me the desire and the power to do thy holy will. Blessed be thy name, that thou hast given me the oil of joy for gladness, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, and that Thou hast sent thy Holy Ghost, the Comforter, to abide with me for ever.

Strengthen me, good Lord, with might by thy Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in my heart by faith; so that being rooted and grounded in love, I may be able to comprehend with

all saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height ; and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that I may be filled with all the fulness of God. Accept, O Lord, these my praises and prayers, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

"As the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy." Ps. ciii. 11.

I can gaze on that beautiful sky,
Fair work of the Saviour I love,
Though the health is withdrawn and the vigour
gone by,
With which once 'mid his works I could rove.

I can gaze on that beautiful sky,
And meekly rejoice in the thought,
That above it in glory, ne'er seen by the eye,
A mansion for me he has bought.

I can gaze on that beautiful sky,
And long the blue pathway to tread,
There with all his redeemed, to adore Him on
high,
For the blood He on Calvary shed.

I can gaze on that beautiful sky,
And rejoice that my Saviour from heaven,
In glory arrayed, will descend from on high,
While the clouds for his chariot are given.

THE SICK MAN PRAISING GOD FOR HIS RECOVERY,
AND RESOLVING HENCEFORTH TO LIVE
TO HIS GLORY.

He was sick unto death, but God had mercy on him. Phil. ii. 27.

The writing of Hezekiah, king of Judah, when he had been sick, and was recovered of his sickness. I said, in the cutting off of my days, I shall go to the gates of the grave . . . but Thou hast, in love to my soul, delivered it from the pit of corruption ; for Thou hast cast all my sins behind Thy back. Is. xxxviii. 9—22. See the whole passage.

Lo, all these things worketh God often-times with man, to bring back his soul from the pit, to be enlightened with the light of the living. Job xxxiii. 29, 30.

Jesus healed all that were sick ; that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying,

Himself took our infirmities and bare our sicknesses. Matt. viii. 16, 17.

Believe ye that I am able to do this ? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you. And their eyes were opened. Matt. ix. 28—30.

She said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole. Jesus said, Daughter, be of good comfort ; thy faith hath made thee whole. Matt. ix. 21, 22.

A certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed and walk. And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed and walked . . . Jesus said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole : sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee. See John v. 1—16.

Come, and let us return unto the Lord : for he hath torn, and he will heal us ;

he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.
Hos. vi. 1.

Their soul abborreth all manner of meat, and they draw near unto the gates of death. Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and He saveth them out of their distresses. He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions. O that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men. Ps. cvii. 18—20.

And one of them (the ten lepers) when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering, said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. See Luke xvii. 12—19.

And he (the lame man) leaping up

stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. Acts iii. 8.

Jesus said, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee. Mark v. 19.

Jesus said unto him (blind Bartimæus), Receive thy sight : thy faith hath saved thee. And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying God : and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God. Luke xviii. 42, 43.

O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together. I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. Ps. xxxiv. 3, 4.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits : who forgiveth all thine iniquities ; who healeth all thy diseases ; who redeemeth thy life from destruction ; who crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies. Ps. ciii. 2, 3.

I waited patiently for the Lord; and He inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord. Ps. xl. 1—3.

I love the Lord because He hath heard the voice of my supplications. Because He hath inclined His ear unto me, therefore will I call upon Him as long as I live. The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow. Then called I upon the name of the Lord; O Lord, I beseech Thee, deliver my soul. Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; yea, our God is merciful. I was greatly afflicted. Ps. cxvi. 1—5, 10.

What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me? I will

take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all His people. Ps. cxvi. 12—14.

I will love Thee, O Lord, my strength. The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid. The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me. In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried unto my God. . . . He sent from above, he took me, he drew me out of many waters. . . . Therefore will I give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, among the heathen, and sing praises unto Thy name. Ps. xviii. 1, 5, 6, 16, 49.

Teach me thy way, O Lord; I will walk in Thy truth: unite my heart to fear Thy name. Ps. lxxxvi. 11.

I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto Thy testimonies. Ps. cxix. 59.

Thy word have I hid in mine heart,

that I might not sin against Thee. . . . O how I love Thy law ! It is my meditation all the day. Ps. cxix. 11, 97.

My voice shalt Thou hear in the morning, O Lord ; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto Thee, and will look up. Ps. v. 3.

Seven times a day do I praise Thee because of Thy righteous judgments. Ps. cxix. 164.

Thou hast delivered my soul from death ; wilt not Thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living ? Ps. lvi. 13.

That we being delivered . . . might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him, all the days of our life. Luke i. 74, 75.

I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes : I hate the work of them that turn aside ; it shall not cleave to

me. A froward heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked person. Ps. ci. 2—4.

I hate and abhor lying; but Thy law do I love. Ps. cxix. 163.

I am a companion of all them that fear Thee, and of them that keep Thy precepts. Ps. cxix. 63.

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. Rom. x. 1.

While I live will I praise the Lord: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being. Ps. cxlvii. 2.

Ps. vi., xvi., xxx., xxxii., xxxiv., xl.
1—5; ciii., cxlv.; Prov. xxvii. 1;
Eccles. ix. 10. Hezekiah's sickness and recovery. Is. xxxviii.; Luke x. 42,
xii. 16—21, 35—48; Rom. xiii. 12—14;
1 Cor. vi. 9—12; Eph. iv. 20—24;
Phil. iv. 8, 9; Col. iii. 1—10; 1 Thess.
iv. 1—12; James iv. 13—15; 1 Pet.
ii. 11, 12; iv. 1—7.

PRAYER.

O most gracious and loving Father, in whose hands are the issues of life and death ; thou killest and makest alive. I adore Thine infinite love in bringing me up again from the gates of the grave, and enabling me to praise Thee as I do this day.

Lord, I acknowledge Thy justice and Thy love, in having laid me upon a bed of pain and suffering. Thy righteousness, O God, is very high, and great things are they which Thou hast done ; who is a God like unto Thee ? O what great troubles and adversities hast Thou shown me, and yet didst Thou turn and refresh me : yea, and broughtest me from the deep of the earth again. I cried unto Thee, and Thou hast healed me ; Thou hast kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit, and die with my sins unforgiven.

Write upon my heart the record of all Thy dealings with me, that I may remember all the way Thou hast led me, to humble me and prove me, and to know what was in my heart. Keep me from backsliding, from worldliness, and sin : from covetousness and vanity, and all those allurements that once drew off my heart from Thee. Help me to quit my sick chamber in a more godly spirit than I entered it ; and let it be seen by my life and conversation, that Thy loving correction has been to my profit. Lord, it is my desire to go forth with joy, and to pay Thee my vows which I promised with my lips and spake with my mouth when I was in trouble. But I am weak and full of sin and uncleanness, and Satan is sure to tempt me. Stand by me, strengthen me with Thy word, and keep me from the hour of temptation. O teach me to number my days, that I may apply my heart unto wisdom ; and

so fill me with Thy Holy Spirit, that I may fight the good fight of faith, and lay hold on eternal life, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of my salvation. Holy Father, Son, and Spirit, accept and bless my prayer. Amen.

II.

O God of all wisdom and love, I bow myself before Thy throne in adoration and gratitude for Thy loving kindness and tender mercies to me, Thine unworthy servant. Thou hast revealed Thyself to me in wondrous love, and hast made me to taste of joys and comforts I knew not before. I bless Thee for this season of sickness, and quiet communion with my own heart, sanctified by Thy Word and Spirit. O Lord, how often didst Thou visit me, and give me songs in the night. What depths of wisdom and love hast Thou opened to me in Thy Word, by the clear shining of Thy Spirit upon its

blessed pages. I confess myself tenfold a debtor to Thy Sovereign Grace, bound by the cords of everlasting love to glorify Thee in time and eternity.

O that I had wings like a dove, then would I flee away and be at rest, then would I mount up and behold Thy glory, and share the bliss of Thy Redeemed. But since it is Thy pleasure that I should stay awhile longer in this land of exile, teach me to say: Thy will, O God, be done. Impress upon my mind the solemn lessons of this chamber of sickness: the nothingness of all that is earthly, and the pure joy of all service of love for Thee. Help me to consecrate all my powers to Thee, and may thy tender sympathy to me, blessed Jesus, enable me to sympathise with Thy suffering people in all their afflictions. And now, Lord, before I re-enter upon the duties and cares of the world, I desire to offer Thee my thanksgiving in

the midst of the congregation, and once more to feed upon the sacred emblems of Thy precious body and blood, to the strengthening and refreshing of my soul.

And finally, when the glad summons shall come to call me to Him, may my soul exclaim with joy : Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly. Amen.

Chamber of sickness, much to thee I owe,
Though dark thou be ;
The lessons it imports me most to know,
I owe to thee !
A sacred seminary thou hast been,
I trust, to train me for a happier scene.

Chamber of sickness, 'midst thy silence oft,
A voice is heard ;
Which, though it falls like dew on flowers so soft,
Yet speaks each word
Into the aching heart's unseen recess,
With power no earthly accents could possess.

Chamber of sickness, in that bright abode,
Where "there is no more pain,"
If, through the merits of my Saviour God,
A seat I gain ;
This theme shall tune my golden harp's soft lays,
That in Thy shelter passed my earthly days.

THE PARDONED SINNER IN THE PROSPECT
OF DEATH.

The master is come, and calleth for thee. John xi. 28.

Arise ye, and depart; for this is not your rest. Micah ii. 10.

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. John xi. 25, 26.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality: so when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength

of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. xv. 53—57.

We know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 Cor. v. 1.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus, will God bring with Him. 1 Thess. iv. 14.

Let not your heart be troubled; . . . I go to prepare a place for you; and if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am there ye may be also. John xiv. 1—3.

Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. Matt. xxv. 34.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according

to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time. 1 Peter i. 3—5.

Eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him. But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit. 1 Cor. ii. 9, 10.

Beloved, now are we the sons of God; and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that when he shall appear, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 1 John iii. 2.

Thine eyes shall see the King in His beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off. Is. xxxiii. 17.

Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. Rev. ii. 10.

The righteous hath hope in his death. Prov. xiv. 32.

Into Thine hand I commit my spirit: Thou hast redeemed me, O Lord God of truth. Ps. xxxi. 5.

My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever. Ps. lxxiii. 26.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Ps. xxiii. 4.

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. Phil. i. 21.

I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day. 2 Tim. i. 12.

The time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished

my course, I have kept the faith : henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing. 2 Tim. iv. 6—8.

For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. Job xix. 25.

God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for He shall receive me. Ps. xlix. 15.

Rejoice, because your names are written in heaven. Luke x. 20.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints. Ps. cxvi. 15.

Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection; on such the second death hath no power. Rev. xx. 6.

Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord. Rev. xiv. 13.

Now unto Him that is able to keep

you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, now and ever. Amen. Jude 24, 25.

Ps. xvi. 8—11; xlviii. 14; lvi. 3; lxxiii. 24—26; Is. xxv. 1, 4, 8, 9; xxxv. 3, 4; xxxviii. 17; Hosea xiii. 14; 1 Cor. xv. 20—58; 2 Cor. v. 8; Phil. i. 21—23; Heb. ix. 27, 28; xi. 16; 1 Pet. i. 3—6; v. 4; 2 Pet. i. 11; Rev. iii. 5.

PRAYER.

O most merciful and loving Saviour, my only refuge and strength, who hast prepared for them that love Thee, such good things as pass man's understanding, I praise Thee for the consolation of thy Word, the comfort of thy Spirit, and for all the blessings which Thou hast laid up for thy redeemed people.

I praise and adore Thee, O blessed Saviour, for thy wondrous love in suffering death upon the Cross, that I should not perish, but have everlasting life. I praise Thee, that in grateful dependance upon Thy merits, and in sure hope of being clothed with Thy righteousness, I may venture, with humble confidence, to rejoice in the prospect of leaving this world. As a pardoned sinner only, can I feel assured of acceptance with Thee, O Thou great and holy God; for unless my soul be sprinkled with the blood of atonement, I could not stand before Thee.

Give me that perfect love which casteth out fear, and be Thou very present with me in the hour of death; and, in the day of judgment, good Lord, deliver me. Merciful Redeemer, who didst suffer the cruel agony of the cross for me, cast Thy pitying eye upon me; have compassion on my weakness; calm my fears, and deliver me from the terrors of the second death, which my sins deserve. Grant

that as my body grows weaker, my soul may be strengthened more and more by Thy Spirit; and that after departing this life in peace, I may be received into everlasting glory, through Thy all-prevailing merits, my Saviour and my God, who with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one Triune Jehovah, ever livest and reignest, world without end. Amen.

II.

Most merciful God, my Father, Advocate, and Comforter, I earnestly implore Thee to be very near me. The time of my departure is at hand. My flesh faileth me, and my strength hath departed from me, but my sure trust is in Thy word. O Lord, remember thy word unto Thy servant; upon which Thou hast caused me to trust. The enemy presseth me sore, and there is none but Thou canst deliver me. Speak the word: "My strength is sufficient for thee," and I shall

yet be more than conqueror, through Him who loved me, and gave Himself for me. O Lord, hide Thy face from my sins, and cast them into the depths of the sea : cover me with the robe of Thy righteousness, and let me stand complete in Thee. Vouchsafe me some token of Thy love, and if it please Thee, give me a foretaste of Thy glory. Forsake me not when my strength faileth me : say to my soul : Fear not, I am Thy salvation. Remember in love all my dear friends, and set the mark of Thy Spirit upon each of them, and mercifully grant, that when we shall hereafter meet around Thy Throne of Glory, not one may be wanting to join in the song of Moses and the Lamb.

And now, Lord, what wait I for ? My expectation is from Thee. I long to depart. My eyes fail me for looking for Thine appearing and Thy glory. Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly. Amen.

Jesus ! who didst in death endure,
 Sufferings which none can e'er conceive,
 My soul's salvation to procure,
 Now, now, Thy dying child receive.
 O lay me down within Thine arms,
 O tranquillize these vain alarms !

This mortal fabric now gives way,
 Its ruin soon will strew the ground,
 But Thou wilt still beside me stay,
 Thy breast my pillow will be found.
 There will my latest tear be shed,
 Thine arms of love beneath my head !

Full many a dying bed by Thee,
 Has been so sooth'd, so cheer'd, so blest,
 That all around could clearly see,
 Thy smile made death a welcome guest :—
 Then, Lord, mine eyelids gently close ;
 Hush'd on Thy bosom to repose.

Didst Thou not promise Thou would'st come,
 Thy dying children to receive ?
 Wilt Thou not take me gently home ?
 Lord, Thy sure promise I believe ;
 And I, when my last breath shall come,
 In Thee shall fall asleep in peace.

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